THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Allotment of LPG connections/ agencies and petrol pump dealerships

657. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of LP gas connections sanctioned for domestic use during the last five years Statewise;

(b) what is the number of gas agencies allotted to the Muslims and to those belonging to the Scheouled Castes during the above period Statewise; and

(c) what is the number of petrol pump dealerships allotted Statewise during the above period alongwith the percentage of dealerships allotted to the Muslims and to those belonging to Scheduled Caste community ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) and (c) There is no separate reservation for muslims in the award of dealership/distributorship, and as such no separate statistics on them are maintained. As regards the number of gas agencies and petrol pump dealerships allotted Statewise and to the Scheduled Castes, the information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Sale of kidney

658. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of sale of kidney in most of the Metropolitan cities in the country;

(b) whether the opinion expressed by the Indian Medical Association, Medical Council of India and the Maharashtra Medical Council in favour of sale of kidney has been considered by Government; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to bring a legislation to prevent the sale of kidney in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY) : (a) Yes, the Government have come across reports alleging trading of human organs including kidneys.

(b) No such opinion in favour of sale of kidney has been expressed by Indian Medical Association, Medical Council of India or Maharashtra Medical Council.

(c) Yes, with a view to prevent the sale of kidney and other human organs in the country, the Government is actively considering the enactment of a comprehensive legislation which will be applicable throughout the country. The proposed legislation purports to regulate the use of human tissues and organs, including kidneys and their donation for therapeutic purpose. It is expected that as a result of such a legislation, there will be a greater availability of human organs through voluntary donors.